

# Valley The Star

AN INDEPENDENT MEDIA OUTLET

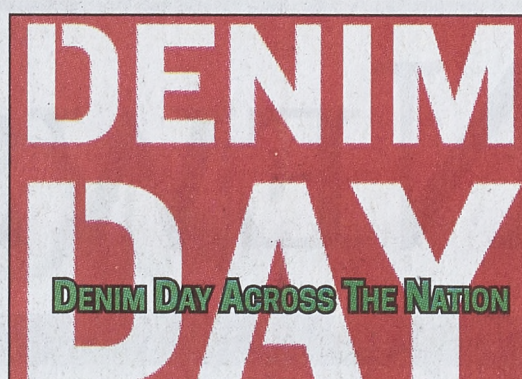
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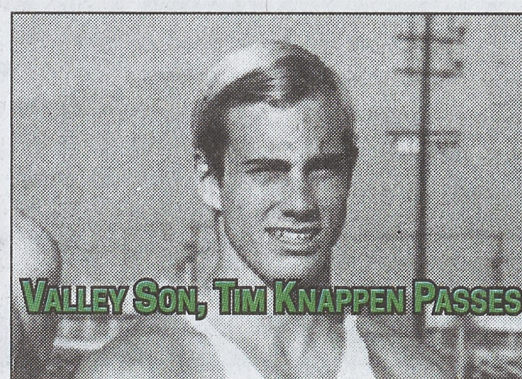
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VALLEY LIFE: SKATER STYLE



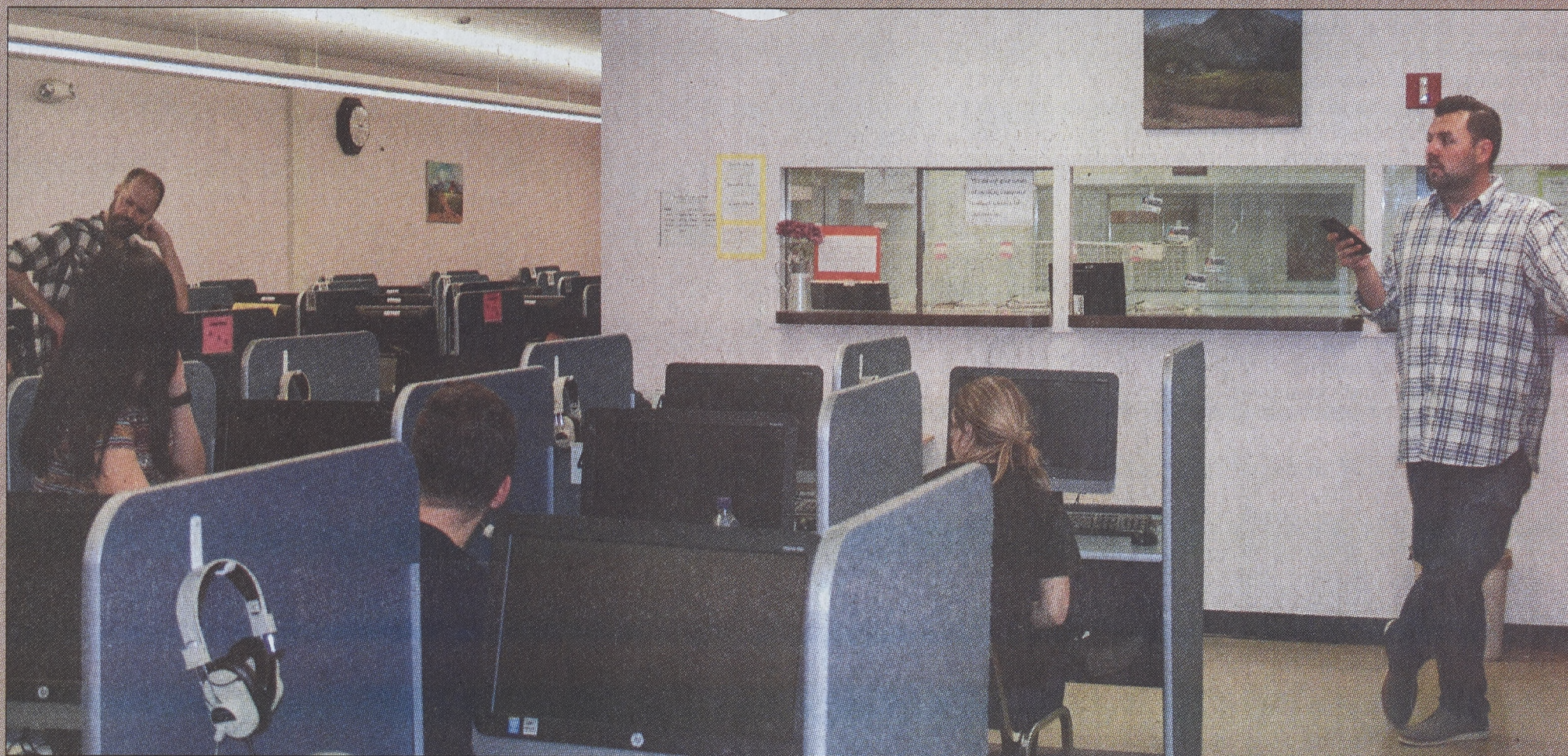
DENIM DAY ACROSS THE NATION



VALLEY SON, TIM KNAPPEN PASSES

## Valley speech team goes to nationals

The Forensics Team advances to compete against some of the top community colleges in the nation.



GETTING READY- Head Forensics Coach Kevin Briancesco briefs his team members as they prepare for their upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. to compete on the national stage.

By SOLOMON SMITH  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Recently winning the State competition, the Valley College Forensics Team prepares for their next big event in Washington, D.C.

Practicing in their tiny, aging space in the basement of the old main building on campus,

cue cards, books, notes and cell phones aid the speakers in their discourse— unfortunately, very few school funds do.

At an Associated Student Union meeting last February the Head Coach of the forensics team, Professor Kevin Briancesco, had to go hat-in-hand to the ASU for the necessary funds to travel to their upcoming national event in D.C. on April 6-16. Needing

about \$12,000, he was concerned about scaring the ASU away with such a large amount and asked for \$9,000. The ASU, however, saw the importance of the competition and dismissed the original motion of \$9,000, granting the full \$12,000.

With the funds now in-hand, the Valley College Forensics Team are on their way to compete against the best speakers

and performers the U.S. community college system has to offer.

The club has placed consistently in their regional and state competitions and has also had a high proportion of students receive scholarships to different colleges because of the work they do on the speech team.

This year they received a gold  
**see Speech p.2**

## ASU finance issues

By ADRIANA RUBIO  
AND SOLOMON SMITH  
STAFF WRITERS

The Valley College Associated Student Union financial meeting revealed several clubs were improperly communicating their funding, resulting in a lengthy discussion about missing funds.

Hundreds of dollars were unaccounted for and newly appointed treasurer, Joseph Katona, disclosed that several clubs—TRIO, ASA, Psychology, and Sociology— had not been submitting their funds to the ASU Club. Katona admitted to being unaware of where those funds were exactly. This came as unfamiliar news to the ASU advisor, Raquel Sanchez, who was not pleased about the absent funds.

"It's concerning that people are not putting in their money," said Sanchez. "So what's happening with that?"

Prior to Katona's appointment as treasurer,  
**see ASU p. 2**

## Genocide still remembered

Over a century has passed and Turkey still denies the truth of the Armenian Genocide.

By LONNIE DOMINGUEZ  
STAFF WRITER

On April 26th at 12:30 p.m. Valley College has scheduled the Armenian Heritage Celebration in the Student Services Plaza, and will feature live music and free food marking a week long memorial to the victims of the Armenian Genocide and a celebration of Armenian culture.

The genocide is a defining moment for the Armenian community around the world and remains in the collective consciousness of its diaspora.

In 1915, the Ottoman Empire set in motion the eradication of the Armenian people.

On April 24, the order went out for the police of Constantinople (present day Istanbul) to arrest and deport the leaders of the Armenian community in the city. Around 250 Armenian intellectuals were rounded up and deported to detention centers; most of whom were killed. The event came to be known as 'Bloody Sunday,' marking the start of the genocide.

During the first world war the Ottoman and Russian Empires were on opposing sides. The

government feared that the Armenian population would side with the Russians and under this pretext the Ottoman government began the massacres.

It started with Armenian men being drafted into labor battalions or removed from the regular military to be worked to death. Often the government would use military conscription as a ruse to round up able bodied men from Armenian villages only to massacre them.

The Armenian population would be deported from the north of the empire and sent on death marches to Syria and Iraq. Thousands would die of exposure or starvation, and many would be raped or killed along the way by soldiers sent to escort them. The Ottoman government would not provide food or water for the deportees and the journey would end at concentration camps.

German railway and consulate workers would report seeing Armenian women and girls sold as brides and boys sold as slaves. Ottoman soldiers captured by the Russians would tell of the burning and burial of thousands of bodies in attempts to hide their crimes. The



PHOTO BY/ COMMONS

ESCAPE- A statuette commemorating the escape of Armenian refugees.

genocide would continue into the Turkish Republic and attacks on Armenians would continue until 1923.

Organizers of the massacres were tried but most escaped justice and some would be killed by Armenian vigilantes in Operation Nemesis.

About 1.5 million people would die during this period including Greek and Assyrian Christians.

This event is considered one of the first genocides of the twentieth century and would inspire the coining of the word genocide by Raphael Lemkin.

Today the Turkish government denies what happened constituted genocide, calling it a mass

deportation gone wrong. Turkey has taken an active stance on denying it by placing diplomatic pressure on nations that consider recognizing the genocide and mourning its victims. Countries that have close military ties with Turkey also fail to recognize the events as genocide including Israel, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Scholars have even been harassed and threatened for the inclusion of the Armenian Genocide in their works. However, not all Turks agree with the official stance of their government.

**see Genocide p.2**

## ASU preps for online voting

A new online voting system will be used this year across all of the LACCD ASU systems.

By HERBERT ORELLANA  
STAFF WRITER

ASU will be implementing a new online voting system, looking to increase student participation in the upcoming Associated Student Union elections after only 4% of students voted last year, leaving many positions unfilled.

The new online system aims to simplify the polling process, allowing students to vote from their phones when accessing their student email and clicking a link to a ballot with candidates, propositions and other information. Online voting will be available to students from April 18 to April 30.

Valley College has partnered with VoteNet to make this virtual election process a reality in an effort to dispose of their traditional physical voting system. Previously, students were forced to make their way to Monarch Hall in order to cast a vote, resulting in very low participation rates.

In the 2016 ASU election, only 506 students out of 18,000 cast votes. Even worse, this lack of student awareness and participation resulted in only 6 student officers being elected, leaving 9 positions to

be filled by students that didn't campaign at all. This is an alarming situation considering that the ASU is the official representation of students at the administrative level.

"We started the year (July 1, 2016) with six officers. Five additional students were appointed in fall 2016. However, after fall 2016 several students decided to resign," says Dr. Elizabeth Negrete, Dean of Student Life at Valley College. "Students have a hard time managing their time between work, school, personal life, and the ASU."

Dr. Negrete is hopeful that this situation can be reverted with the new online voting system, and create awareness about the elections within the Valley community. In addition, the ASU will conduct informative presentations in classrooms and will prompt faculty to encourage students to have their voices heard.

As an incentive, students who bring a receipt indicating they voted will be entered into an opportunity to win \$50.00 from the LAVC bookstore.

LAVC is investing in this new system to ensure that all students take part  
**see Voting p.2**



# NEWS/JUMPS

## 'Speech'

medal in After Dinner Speech, bronze and silver in platform speaking and fourth overall in the state at the California Community College Forensics Association, or CCCFA.

The students come from a variety of backgrounds and Brianesco has stated that this diversity has often been a strength for them. They have allowed students of all abilities to join the club.

"We do not hold try outs and anyone can join the team if they take the class," says the coach.

Some colleges have a full staff with a coach in each of the five areas of

competition. Valley currently only has three coaches for all of the main areas, but consistently wins or places in the areas they specialize in.

Even the way a student looks is part of the competition, and students who may have never had to wear formal or business attire can be at a disadvantage.

"Sometimes I feel as if we have to work twice as hard," says Brianesco.

With all of this stacked against them, the team still continues to win titles and place against some of the best teams in the country and state. The president of the club, Agatha Feras, has only been speaking English for a short time but is a

nationally rated speaker who has won many competitions on behalf of Valley.

"I spoke English in my country (the Philippines) but it was not real English," says Feras. "It was English taught to us by people whose first language was not English."

An excellent speaker, the hint of an accent still persists when she speaks, and although it in no way impedes upon the impact of what she says, in competitions it can still count against her.

The Valley College Forensics Team is currently completing their competition in D.C. and will return on April 18.



PEP TALK- Coaches gives their team a heads up on what to expect on the upcoming competition in D.C.

PHOTO BY/ ANA RAMOS

## Denim Day awareness of sexual assault victims

College students wear jeans to educate others about sexual assault.

BY ALIYAH ALLEN  
STAFF WRITER

On April 26, Peace Over Violence will run its eighteenth Denim Day campaign in honor of the victims of sexual violence.

The campaign stems from a ruling in a rape case in 1999 by the Italian Supreme Court, in which the justices felt that because the victim's jeans were so tight she must have helped the rapist remove them, thereby consenting to the assault.

The following day, women in the Italian Parliament came to work

wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim while holding signs that stated, "Jeans: An Alibi for Rape." Peace Over Violence, a nonprofit organization, led by Patti Giggans, developed the Denim Day campaign as an ongoing international response to this unfairness and to promote activism against it. Peace Over Violence organized the country's first Denim Day event in 1999.

Denim Day has turned into a national movement. According to the University of Wisconsin, "More than 2 million Americans participated in Denim Day. It's estimated

that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys have had an unwanted or abusive sexual experience in childhood."

On Denim Day, students, teachers and faculty are asked to wear their jeans in protest against the silence that accompanies sexual abuse and to prevent the shaming of the victims by considering them to be accomplices in the crimes that were committed against them.

For more information and to find events and actions for this April's Denim Day go to [denimdayinfo.org](http://denimdayinfo.org).

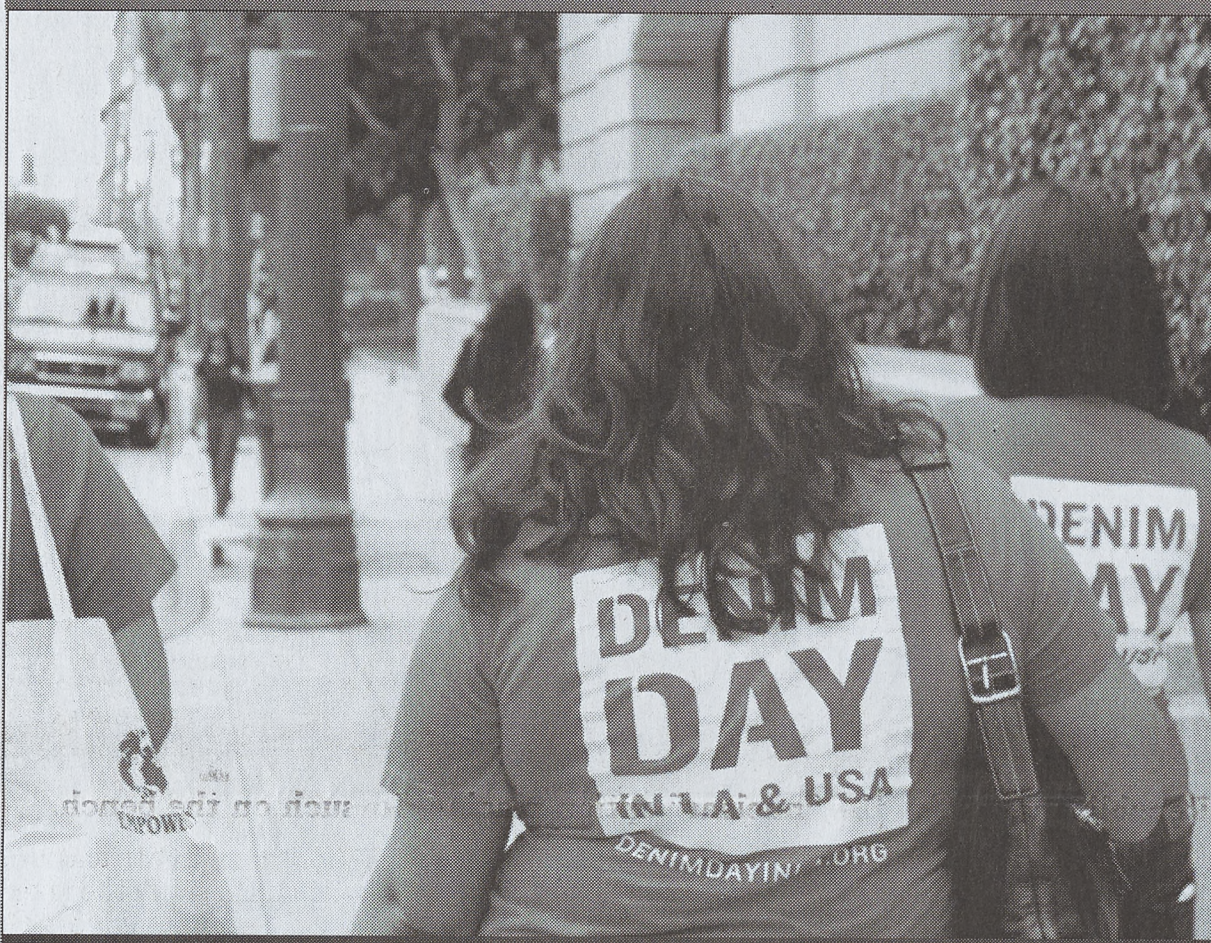


PHOTO BY/ ANA RAMOS

SHOWING SUPPORT- Students across the nation turn out on campuses to show support of the Denim Day.

## 'Genocide'

Retired Turkish ambassador Volkan Vural has stated that his nation should apologize for what happened to the Armenians and Greeks.

"The historical facts are already known," said Vural. "The most important point here is that how will these facts be interpreted and will affect the future."

## 'ASU'

the position had been in limbo for about 6 months after elected treasurer, Michael Anderson, left in October.

Appointed president, Beatriz Medina, was acting treasurer during that time. Although the current members work hard, many of whom absorbed the positions of other unfilled offices, the way forward has been hard going. With 16 positions on the ASU, a dismal 6 positions had been filled, until recently. Many positions remained unfilled for the majority of this semester, or filled by neophyte members who were late in joining and still training.

Student support has been a problem at Valley and poses a unique problem for the ASU. Unlike four-year universities, where much of the student body may live on campus, the community college is often made up of students who see the college as a transitional space, and themselves as just passing through.

Due in part to the small staff, club funds had not been properly observed or handled throughout that period. Katona did mention, however, his focus for the past 3-4 weeks as treasurer has been on creating a cleaner, user-friendly, organized system to track club funds.

"We're getting a fundraiser form for clubs," said Katona. "As soon as they

have a fundraiser they're going to have to come to us and submit how much money they gained, how much money they spent."

The forms have yet to be created but Katona says he is in the process of making it happen.

There are about 19 to 20 clubs, some unchartered, and that amount is growing. Katona confesses to leaving the responsibility of those club funds to the individual club officers to track while the ASU designs a suitable fundraising system.

"It's kind of up to the clubs since we don't have any accountability for them," said Katona. "We can't force them to submit money we don't know about."

Without a proper master club list or well-formulated financial system the use of the money is unknown.

The ASU fee that was once required to be paid at the time of admission has now been made optional due to student complaints. This has drastically diminished funds. In the past year the ASU has gone from approximately \$80,000 to about \$16,000, creating a tight-fisted environment.

"Definitely don't want people to know because we definitely don't want people coming to submit a bunch of budget request and trying to get at that money," said Katona. "We don't want the clubs to think that the general contingency savings account is for use."

For additional content, please visit:

[www.thevalleystar.com](http://www.thevalleystar.com)



Join the public relations class in celebrating Earth Day and learn how to reduce your carbon footprint.

"Seed the day," and join us Wednesday, April 19 from 11 a.m. til 3 p.m., as we hand out free seeds and bookmarks in

## 'Voting'

on the ASU, which provides sponsoring for various clubs and events on campus, as well as opportunities to lobby for additional classes, funding for student resources, and other valuable services that all valley students can now enjoy.

Students will now have the opportunity to hear each candidate's campaign of how he/she hopes to shape LAVC and represent students' interest while in office, this upcoming Monday the 18th from 1-2:30 pm at the Student Union Plaza.

Two weeks prior to the date this story was written, the Valley Star contacted the president and vice president of the ASU to gather their thoughts on their accomplishments while in office, the upcoming election, and the future challenges of the ASU. None of them replied.



# OPINION

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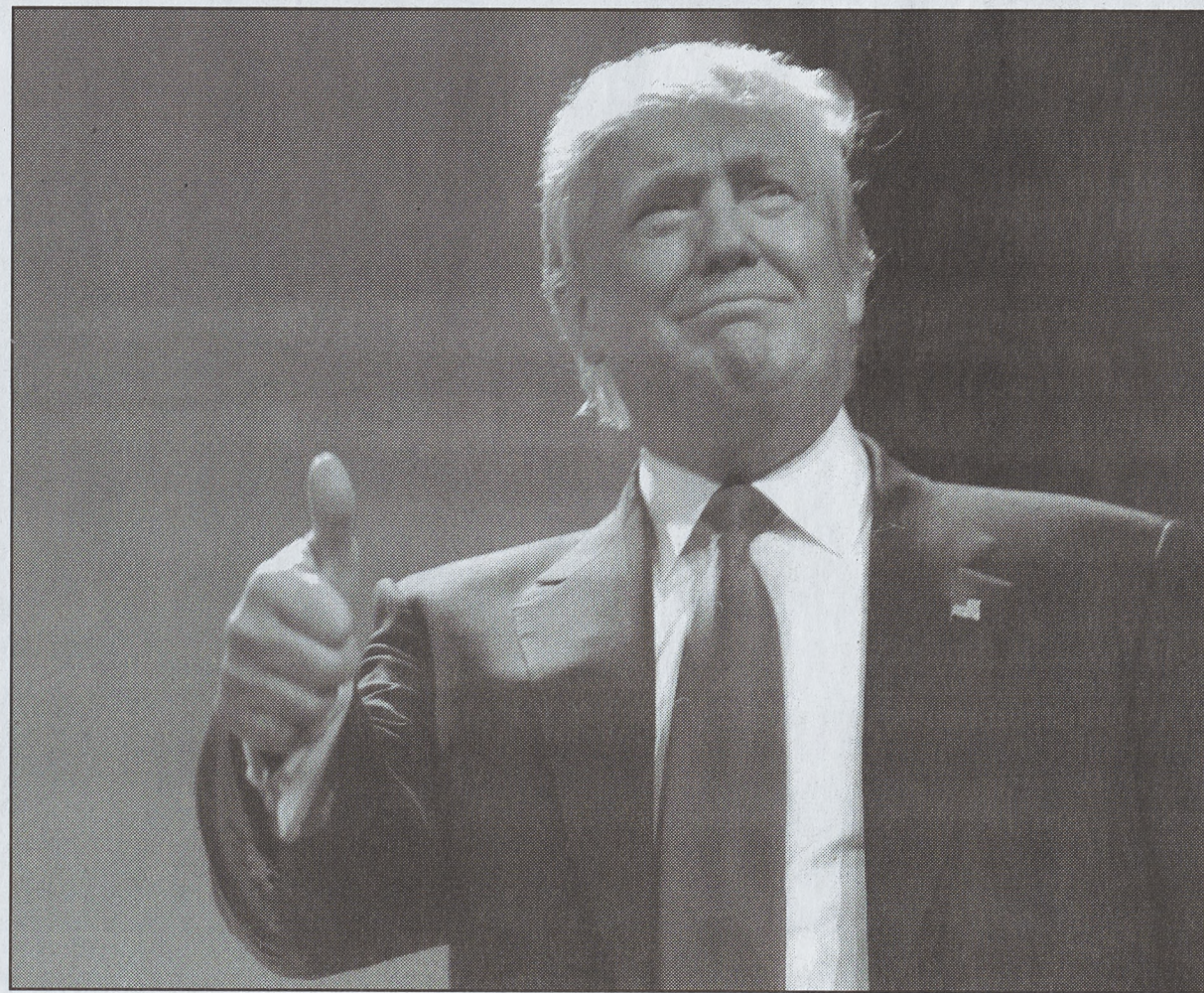
## Trump proposes to reduce Pell and federal college aid

President Trump's proposal suggests cuts to Pell Grants and federal student aid programs that will make college access difficult for low-income families.

OPINION BY  
BRITTANY ZELADA

A new budget proposal by the Trump Administration may set in motion reductions of Pell Grants and federal student aid programs putting low-income students at risk of increased debt.

College students from low and middle-class families will suffer the most with this new proposal if it is passed through Congress. Our nation has switched priorities in regards to what is necessary in education. In the 2015-2016 academic year, the College Board reported that about 7.9 million students received the Pell Grant to attend college. In America we value the "American Dream" where one can start from the bottom and work their way to the top. Most middle and low-income families are our nation's definition of the "American Dream," and education is what betters society and brings new discoveries, and acceptance. The hypocrisy of the Trump administration promising a \$20 billion "school choice" grant, to expand access to charter and private schools



SCHOOLS- Trumps gives the thumbs up at a rally in Iowa before his election to the office of the president.

for low-income K-12 students, is highlighted by the reduction of resources for college students diminishing, their dreams of higher education.

The proposal cuts \$9 million from the U.S.

Department of Education which will impact higher education. Pell Grants help the majority of middle and low-income students attend college. These grants give up to \$5,920 to students whose families

earn less than \$40,000 a year without having to be paid back. According to a report by USA TODAY College, Pell Grants are the largest expense in the U.S. Department of Education, investing \$28.2 billion on

Pell Grants in the 2015-2016 academic year. Proposed reduction to student-aid programs like the Pell Grant will take away college access for many students.

In a report from Inside Higher Ed, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) senior member, Democrat Patty Murray said, "Deep cuts to funding and eligibility for campus-based aid, college access programs, and a significant raid of Pell Grant funds would harm low- and middle-income families and their ability to access and succeed in higher education."

Statistics by the College Board state that out of 22 million undergraduates in the 2015-2016 academic year 33 percent received Pell Grants at their institutions of choice.

Under the new budget, not only will it affect the Pell Grant, it will put at risk the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG grant). This federal grant, according to The Washington Post is a \$732 million program that provided aid to 1.6 million students in the 2014-2015 academic year. Similar to the Pell Grant, it does not

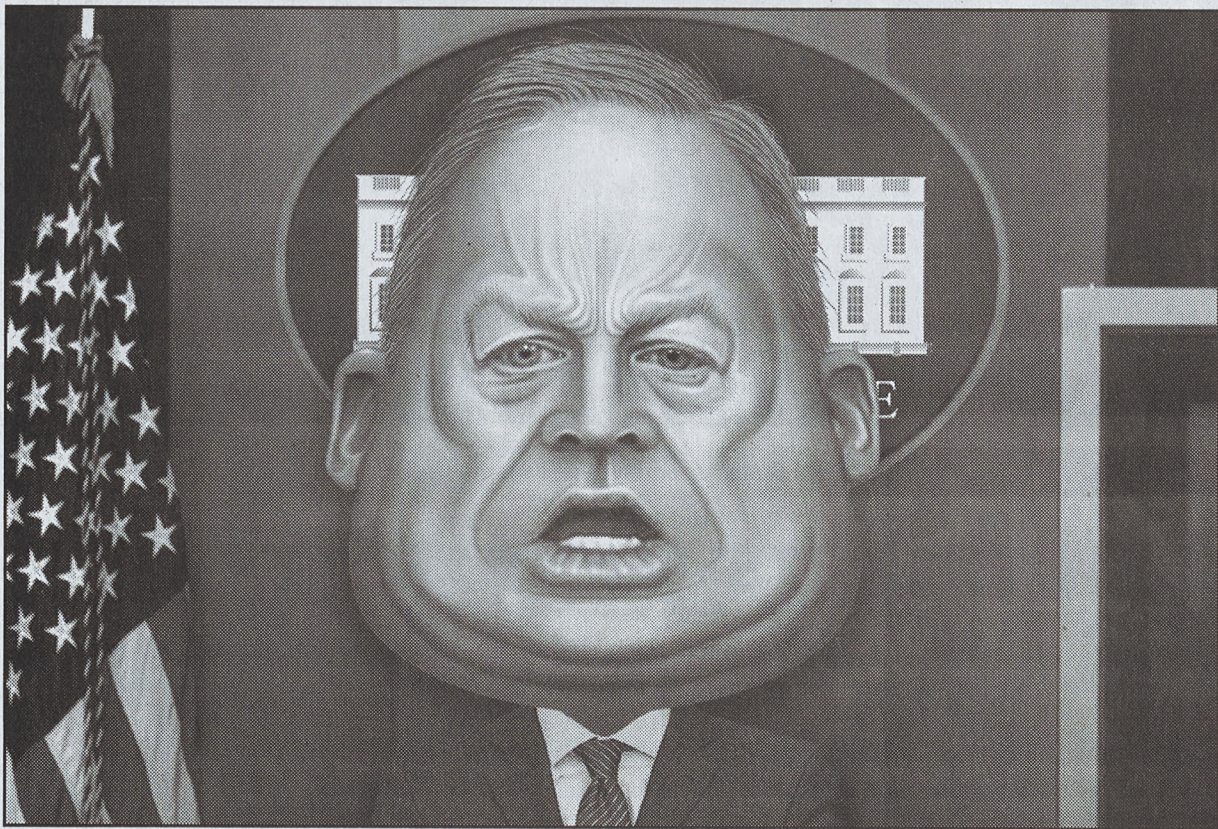
have to be paid back by the student and usually awards up to \$4,000 depending on financial aid.

Trump's Administration has set its priorities not in favor of students and education, but military funding, increasing that by about 7-9 percent. America already spends about \$6 billion on the military as is, while most college students are struggling with the burden of debt and survival. Reported by National Public Radio (NPR) a survey conducted by the University of Wisconsin showed that one third of community college students live in poverty and 14 percent are homeless in 24 states.

The proposal will be up for debate in Congress, leaving a trail of uncertainty for future and current college students in the nation who want to pursue higher education. Taking resources away from thousands of students, while investing in war will not make America great again. Let's make America smart again, by alleviating the burdens of students trying to pursue higher education.

## Press Secretary Sean Spicer remains at odds with press

The White House's press secretary receives backlash via social media after two incidents, both involving women, made their way to news outlets.



DONKEYHOTIEY / FLICKR

ANGRY- White House Press Secretary Spicer in hot water for mistreatment of female reporters.

BY KITIANA ADAMS  
STAFF WRITER

"Lawd" was the only word to describe the indirect insults an African American female reporter received from the White House press secretary Sean Spicer after a harsh exchange between the two took place at a press conference last month. Trump's administration has tried to drown out the voices of credible media in an effort to continue their narrative. A legitimate question was asked and in turn, a reporter was put on the defensive. During a white house briefing on March 28th, April Ryan, a correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks, questioned Spicer on the investigation into contacts between Trump campaign

associates and Russian officials, causing him to throw a tantrum.

"If the president puts Russian salad dressing on his salad tonight, somehow that's a Russian connection," Spicer angrily said.

The fired-up press secretary said that every reporter who had asked that question, had already been given an answer and a conclusion had been reached.

What followed left some in a state of shock and disbelief. Ryan then questioned Trump's meeting with Condoleezza Rice after calling her a "bitch" in 2006, which caused Spicer to accuse the reporter of having an agenda by saying, "It seems like you're 'hell-bent' on trying to make sure that the image you want to tell, stays.

Please stop shaking your head." Spicer's comment towards Ryan was unwarranted but also left some to wonder what exactly Spicer was implying.

If a woman shakes her head at someone because she calls their ignorant bluff, somehow that paves a way to blatantly disrespect and undermine her. Spicer was asked a direct question that involved the country's sitting president and instead of handling himself with class, he gave a trivialized answer along with an insult that doubled as a microaggression towards all women. This shouldn't come as a surprise due to his absurd comment towards another female reporter from Politico, an American political-journalism company earlier this year.

## Gorsuch and nuclear option

Republicans opt for the "nuclear" option placing Gorsuch on the bench.

OPINION BY  
SOLOMON SMITH

Judge Neil Gorsuch was confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court April 7, using what has been referred to as the "nuclear option" furthering the divide in congress.

Gorsuch replaces Judge Antonin Scalia who passed away February 13, 2016 during the closing year of President Barack Obama's administration. Filling the seat of Scalia on the supreme court was the privilege of then President Obama but was blocked by a Republican party intent on opposition.

For the last year of Obama's second term, the phrase "lame duck" was bandied about by Republicans as the reason for leaving the seat open and refusing to meet with then candidate Merrick Garland, a well-liked moderate. This is when the GOP moved from opposition party to obstruction party.

The lame duck rule, or the Thurmond Rule, it turned out, was a non-starter. There is no actual rule stating that a president in the last year of his office cannot nominate a supreme court justice.

The president of the American Bar Association, Wm. T. "Bill" Robinson III, wrote a letter to the senate on this matter in 2012. In the letter he states: "As you know, the 'Thurmond Rule' is neither a rule nor a clearly defined event."

The letter goes on to say that it also has no real precedent. This is generally accepted by authorities on constitutional law from both sides--- simply put, it

is an imaginary rule. The Republican party, however, disregarded this and refused to even meet with Garland.

After a year of blatant disregard for their duties, the seat remained open until Trump's administration successfully nominated Neil Gorsuch early this year.

Gorsuch was a genteel, soft spoken but direct candidate who was moderate-in-speech and sharp in intellect. He also has voted against the rights of workers in favor of large corporations or religion.

When asked about his voting habits Gorsuch chose to hide behind non-answers and fuzzy rhetoric against politics.

Politico and Slate point out how Gorsuch politely refused to give anyone any idea of what he is about. When senator Diane Feinstein (D) asked Gorsuch about his opinion on Roe v. Wade he responded, "If I indicate my agreement or disagreement with a past precedent of the United States Supreme Court," he continues, "I'm signaling to future litigants that I can't be a fair judge."

Gorsuch missed the point. The hearing was held so that all parties would be able to evalu-

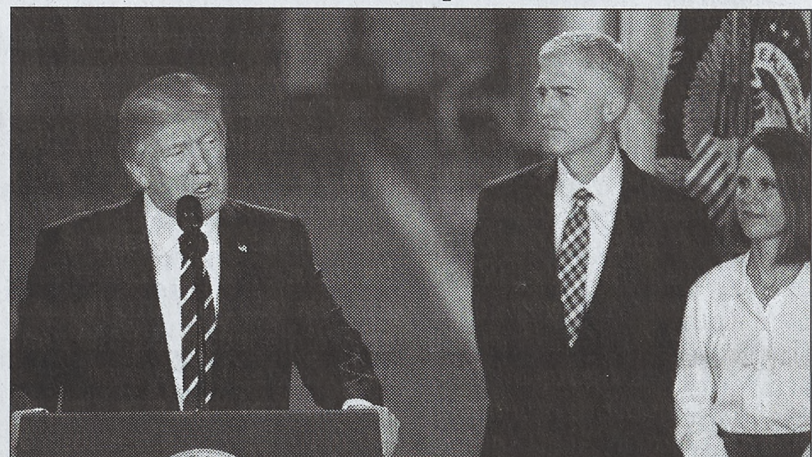
ate the qualifications and quality of the next supreme court judge. By avoiding the questions, Gorsuch denied them that opportunity.

Republicans then voted in the "nuclear option" changing the votes needed to confirm from supermajority (60 of 100 votes), to simple majority (50 votes). This reduces the amount of consensus that a functioning two party system needs, and was short-sighted. The move stratifies the current divide between parties and sets the tone for a deeply divided senate.

With Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch America got a judge who is much more right than Scalia and more conservative than Judge Clarence Thomas, according to Politico, the Washington Post, and Slate.

What is truly problematic, however, is that such an extreme judge got his seat through rule changes to avoid requiring consensus, at a time when a little cooperation between the two parties could help heal some of the deep divides in the country.

The "nuclear option," much like nuclear war, leaves no winners, but a dark cloudy future for the operation of the senate.



WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER / PUBLIC DOMAIN  
INTRODUCTION- Trump introduces Neil Gorsuch for Supreme Court seat.



## Apple dresses up iPhone in support of charity program

The special edition red iPhones available as iPhone 7 and 7 Plus were released as a commemoration of their ten year relationship with the (RED) program.

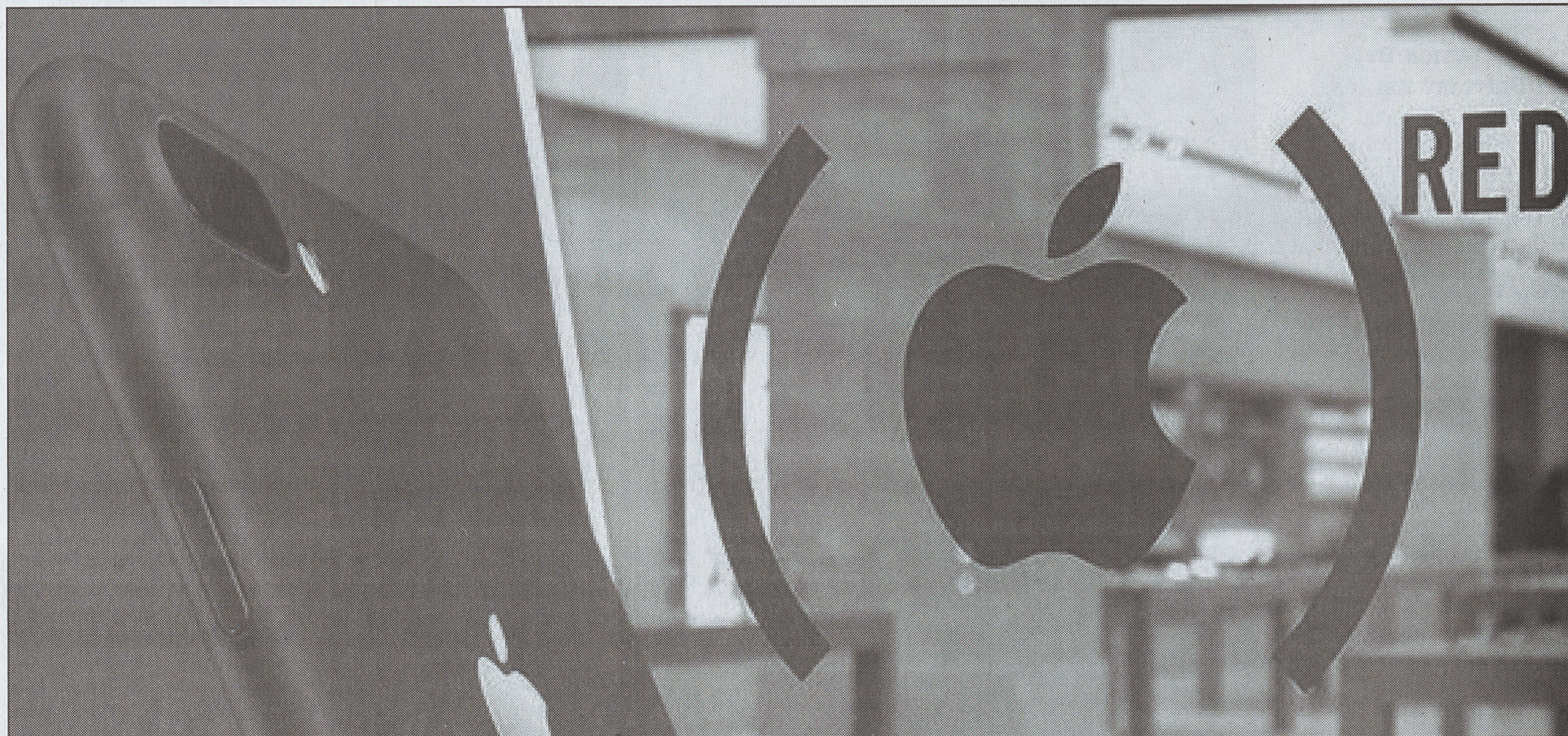
By AKI TAKASHIRO  
STAFF WRITER

Apple released a new red iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus on March 24 in acknowledgement of more than 10 years of partnership between Apple and (RED) program.

People are now able to buy the iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus in a vibrant red, online and in stores, in 128GB and 256GB models.

The price starts from \$749(US) and will be shipped to more than 40 countries. The profits from the red iPhones will go directly to the Global Fund to finance HIV/AIDS program in Africa. According to Apple, the (RED) program raised \$465 million since it was founded in 2006, and more than \$130 million is from Apple alone. Apple has produced red versions of its products before, including the iPod nano and Apple watch, as a part of its (RED) program but this is the first red iPhone.

"Actually red iPhones look cool," said Michael Sirounian, a Valley student who has been a Samsung user for five years. "Honestly, there are many other ways



CURTSEY OF GETTY AND APPLE / PUBLIC DOMAIN

**BOLD NEW COLOR-** The limited edition Apple iPhone 7 and 7 plus, were released in support as part of a program to commemorate a ten year partnership with the popular charity (Red).

to engage in raising money for AIDS support programs other than buying a red iPhone, but I think many Apple fans will get excited over the special-edition."

(RED) is a partnership program which was founded by Bono from U2, Bobby Shriver an activist and

attorney who is also a nephew of former U.S. president, John F. Kennedy. It supports the Global Fund, a financing institution which focuses investment on treatment of three epidemics: AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. They provides funds in Sub-Saharan Africa including

Ghana, Rwanda, and Kenya. According to (RED), more than 90 million people in those areas are benefitting from the (RED) program through the Global Fund.

The features and capabilities are exactly the same as the previous versions of the iPhone 7 and iPhone 7

Plus models---what is special about the phones is the color. Public response has been unexcited and rather sarcastic.

"Y'all will spend \$900 on the red iPhone for, AIDS awareness but won't spend \$12 for condoms to stop spreading it,"

tweeted by Judy Jetson@ShesSweetVenom, and the tweet is liked by 1,295 people.

Apple did not reveal how much of the revenue from red iPhones will be contributed to the program.

## A family's immortal legacy

David Lacks, Jr. and Veronica Robinson take the stage and share their thoughts about their great grandmother Henrietta Lacks' life.

By BRITTANY ZELADA  
AND AKI TAKASHIRO  
STAFF WRITERS

The great grandchildren of Henrietta Lacks recently visited Valley College to talk about their great grandmother whose cells were wrongfully harvested for cell research that later turned into a billion dollar industry.

"Only people that can get any good from my mother cells is the people that got money," said Zakariyya Lacks the youngest son of Henrietta Lacks in a quote from the New York Times best selling novel, the "Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks." He goes on to say, "them doctors say her cells is so important and did all this and that to help people."

Henrietta Lacks went John to Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, for cervical cancer treatment and some of her cells were taken for research without her knowledge. Valley's One Book One College program invited David Lacks Jr. and Veronica Robinson to speak about their great grandmother. The One Book program nominated the Lacks' book for the current academic year and more than 40 instructors use the text. The story touches on many issues: biology, medicine, ethics, morality, racism, and privacy. These subjects prompt students and readers to think about their own human rights and the laws of consent. Valley students and faculty were given insight about Henrietta Lacks and the HeLa cell that was used

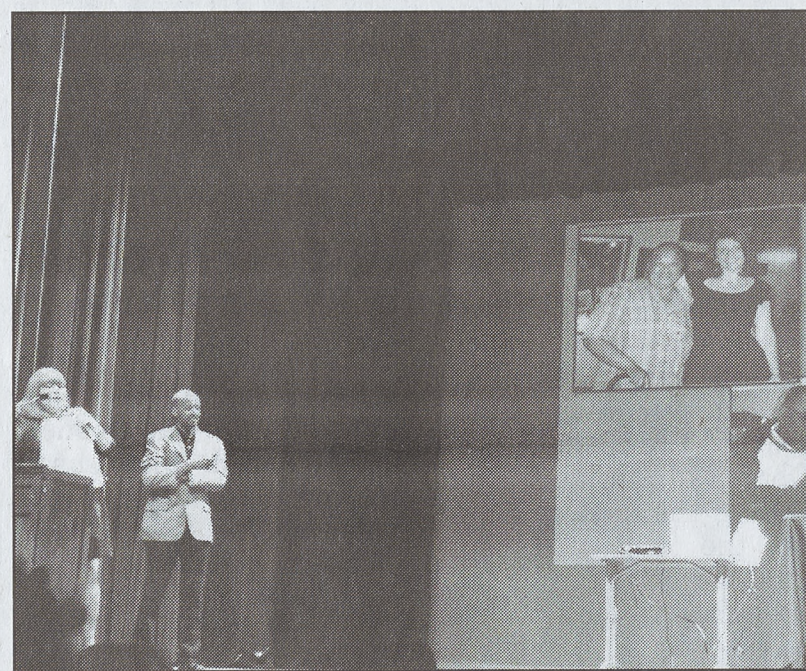


PHOTO BY /AKI TAKASHIRO

**LEGACY-** The great grandchildren of Henrietta Lacks .

for certain breakthroughs like the polio vaccine, cancer and HIV research, in vitro fertilization, amongst others, and it is still saving lives around the world today.

The presentation started with an exhibit of projects and art by students in the English department. The Lacks family was introduced by the moderator of the event Dr. Bill Wallis, a professor at Valley, asking questions about their family and the novel. Students and faculty got the opportunity to write their questions which were answered in the Q&A part of the presentation making the event an interactive experience.

"What I mostly like about the book is that it is a story that gave the identity to an abstraction," said English professor Fatema Baldiwalla. "It made the story human, giving readers the backstory about the cell that has the power to save millions of lives today."

The impact of Henrietta's cells has brought the Lacks family through different, new experiences for a humble family that is still in shock about the amount of fame and significance Henrietta has brought to the world. An average family that has gone so far as to be invited to the White House and meet Oprah. The Lacks family now focuses on the Lacks Foundation which Robinson works for as the executive director. "Even though no one is giving us anything back, we wanna give people things back," said Robinson. It is their way of giving back to the community and bringing awareness of research consent and financial assistance to families who are struggling.

"She (Henrietta) would be honored," Robinson said, "she wouldn't be happy of the way they were obtained, but to know that her cells had helped other people."



/ PUBLIC DOMAIN

**SENATE FLOOR-** Floor of the California State Assembly where members proposed to cover costs of tuition.

## Lawmakers propose a new radical college tuition plan

Democrats in the California State Assembly proposed a plan to make college tuition accessible for more students.

By KAYLA HEWITT  
STAFF WRITER

Dems in California's State Assembly proposed a radical new plan on March 13, to cover not only college tuition but living expenses for many students.

The "Degrees not Debts" program would affect the almost 400,000 low and middle-income students in the UC The proposal intends to address the rising living expenses and tuition costs of college students.

The plan aims to assist students whose families make under \$150,000 a year. Students would be expected to work part-time jobs, and parents making over \$60,000 would be expected to chip in, according to the LA Times.

The scholarship would provide not only

for tuition but also living expenses. According to the Sacramento Bee, costs average around \$23,000 at CSU's and more than \$33,000 at UC's living expenses included, and the plan attempts to supplement that without forcing students to amass more debt.

The proposal will not completely ignore the California Community College system.

The Success Grant would be expanded, providing help for more lower-income students in community colleges.

What's most attractive to community college students, however, is the proposal that the first year of community college be made free for full-time, in-state students.

Assembly member Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles) in a press release on Assembly member Phil Ting's website said, "pro-

viding one year of free community college to all first-time, full-time students can expand access to financial aid, promote equity, increase enrollment, help improve academic performance, and boost college completion rates."

The plan is not without its downsides, the biggest being the steep price tag. The proposal is expected to cost around \$1.6 billion per year, and with Governor Jerry Brown predicting a budget deficit next year, this price poses a difficult hurdle.

Some assembly members are concerned that the plan does not do enough for community college students, who are facing growing living expenses. The assembly has not confirmed a date for voting on this proposal, instead stating that it will follow the usual budget protocol.



# VALLEY LIFE

5

## Bella Barri fell hard for both skateboards and fashion

Student Bella Barri brings her own unique style of retro 70's fashion and girl power to Valley College and the local skate parks.

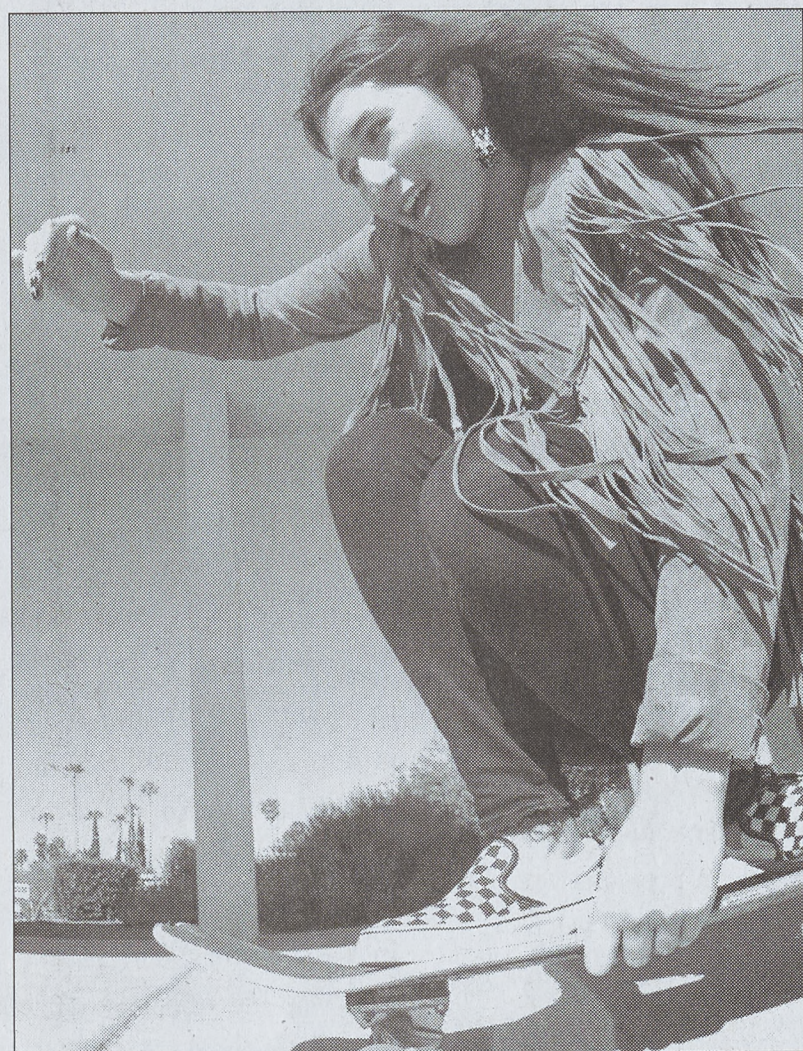


PHOTO BY /ALVIN CUADRA

RETRO- Barri flaunts her retro-skater sense of style on campus.

By JESSICA PEREZ  
STAFF WRITER

Valley College student Bella Barri had no idea that her laziness would

result in picking up a skateboard or that skateboard would eventually grow into a way of life.

The 20-year-old sophomore, majoring in envi-

ronmental studies, plans to transfer to Humboldt State University to pursue her dream of becoming an environmental lawyer or working in a national forest.

Barri spontaneously picked up her brother's skateboard one day because of her unwillingness to walk to high school. On her way, she admired skateboarders'

cruising her skateboard past the Humanities Building and skateboarding is part of her everyday life. She is dressed in a fringe leather jacket, including chandelier earrings and white-checked Vans. She displays a distinct sense of style.

Her music interests reflect her style, where 70's rock meets psychedelic dreams and the skating

**I like taking risks with my outfits and I definitely get my inspiration from Kirk Hammett and a mixture of a carefree style.**

**Bella Barri**

skills and the way they dressed.

"One day I picked up my brother's penny board and fell like 20 times but I learned from there," Barri said.

Even though she may have had a lot of spills, bumps and bruises, those rides led her to her style and her passion today. Now you can see Barri

life fuses with bohemian beachy vibes. Bell bottoms, crop tops, crocodile boots, and a killer bandana is right up her alley.

"I like skating and fashion," Barri said. "I like taking risks with my outfits and I definitely get my inspiration from Kirk Hammett and a mixture of a carefree style."

She truly enjoys the

art of "thrifting" because she appreciates the second-hand value and when purchasing an item, she knows that no two items are the same.

"You can find really rad vintage clothes," Barri said. "I usually go to Salvation Army and stores in Highland Park. Most of my Levi's jeans are thrifted or fabrics I tear up."

Since high school, Barri has been a part-time model doing test shoots for her friends' portfolios. She has become so popular that brands pay her to take photographs wearing their clothes and accessories and post her modeling shots online. Barri explains she has a tough/tomboy personality but enjoys embracing her feminine side.

Barri said, "it's not about gaining anything to me, I just hope to meet new people, take cool shots, and experience as much as I can."

She has been skating for over a year and a half and was inspired by film "Lords of Dogtown" and Colombian skateboard-

er David Gonzales. She spends most of her time at her favorite spot to cruise Venice Beach and says that she has learned to ollie, as well as accomplishing a kick flip and a pop shove it, among other tricks.

"I enjoy cruising by the beach and trying new tricks," Barri said. "I just love the rush of freedom while skating down the bowls."



PHOTO BY /ALVIN CUADRA

STYLE- Barri poses with her board.

## Valley College mourns passing of favored son Tim Knappen

Tim Knappen, long time Valley staff member known for his athletic prowess passes away after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

By LONNIE DOMINGUEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Tim Knappen, staff member, and 2012 LAVC Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, best known for his impressive athletic accomplishments and daredevil antics, passed away at his Van Nuys home April 1, after a 15 year battle with Parkinson's disease.

The former track star known as "Snake" to some, "Crazy Tim" to others, who was proud to have once met Muhammad Ali, had been an inspiration for those around him both on and off the field for his uplifting can-do attitude, in the face of adversity.

Knappen first grabbed attention in 1967 as a track and field star for Grant High School, helping his team win in pole

vault and high jump. Then in 1968 he came to Valley and joined its then short-handed track and field team.

In 1970 he made local news by setting a record in decathlon, a mark which still stands today, and gaining numerous victories in pole vault, high jumps, high hurdles, relay, and cross-country; all after a bout of pneumonia the previous season.

His athletic abilities earned him a scholarship to Arizona State University, but an Achilles injury ended his track career.

However, his injury wouldn't hamper him for long. In 1974, Knappen broke two Guinness Book of World Records by balancing a pole on his nose for 90 seconds and doing 50 handstand push-ups in a row.

Knappen returned to the San Fernando Valley and coached track at several high schools in the area, including Grant, but would eventually come back to Valley, which he considered his home.

For eight years Knappen was part of Valley's track coaching staff before becoming a full-time employee in 2000, holding various job titles in the athletics department.

As much as he was known for his accomplishments in track and field, Knappen was also known for his daring feats and oddball behavior.

Around a dozen times, Knappen would climb the light tower above the old Valley football field press box and give out a Tarzan yell while doing handstands. On one occasion in nothing more than a

loin cloth, a Grant High School graduation.

In 2002, Knappen was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, but this didn't stop him from his weekly exercise routines and competing in amateur athletic events.

He continued his various jobs at Valley and in 2012 was inducted into the LAVC Athletic Hall of Fame, even helping Grant High pole vaulter, Martin Lopez win an L.A. City title that same year.

Knappen thought of Valley as his home and was considered family by many students and staff members. Valley has lost one of its best and most dedicated alumni.

His funeral arrangements are still pending at this time.

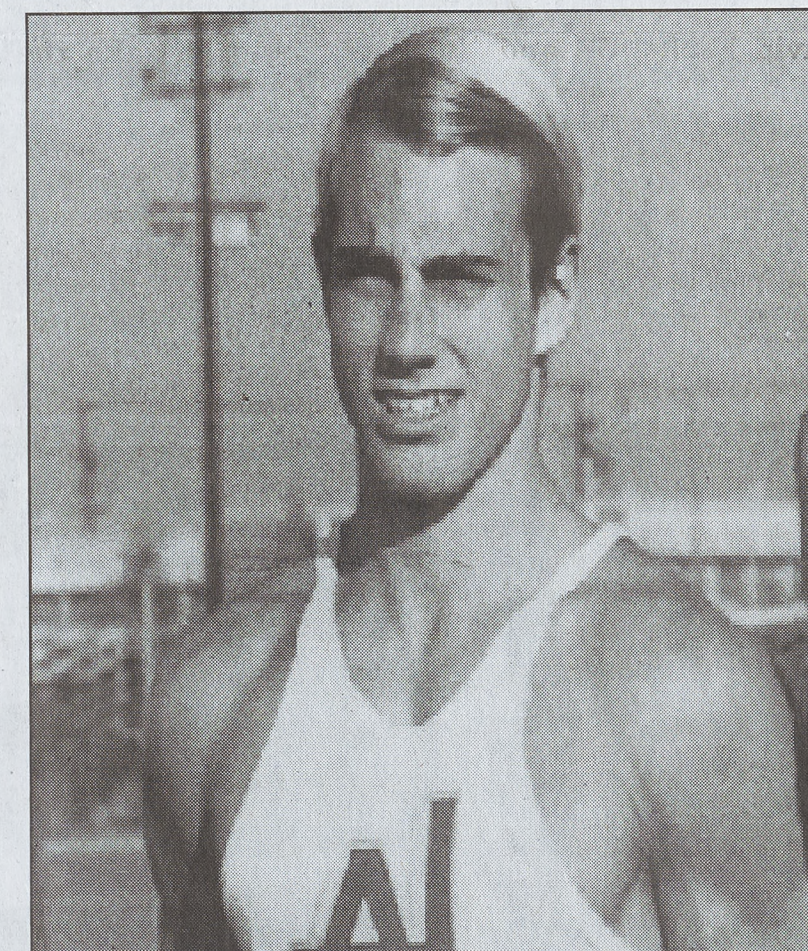


PHOTO BY / ANONYMOUS

ATHLETE- A young Tim Knappen on the Valley College track and field.

## Professor shares pilot and life experiences in the classroom

Valley College professor Dr. Steven Mark Sachs inspires Valley College students and shares his knowledge and experiences in his articles.



PUBLIC DOMAIN/ ANONYMOUS

PROFILE-Dr. Steven Mark Sachs writer, professor and pilot.

By AKI TAKASHIRO  
STAFF WRITER

In addition to being a doctor of psychology, pilot and published author, professor Steven Mark Sachs also teaches a CAOT class online for Valley College.

After teaching for over 40 years in the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), he now lives in Washington state and teaches his classes online.

Beside grading homework, he shares some of his flight experiences in an article for Flight Training Magazine called, "Be quiet! And Other Things Never to Say to Passengers". In it, he discusses the importance of verbal communication

between pilots and passengers. As an Aviation Ground Instructor and experienced pilot, he suggests the ways to reduce stress and anxiety amongst passengers.

"I thought it would be

**I'm in control on how much time I use to do what.**

**Dr. Steven Mark Sachs**

good to share it with other pilots who did not have the sensitivity," Sachs said, "or psychological background to be able to handle those kinds of communications very well."

His interest in aviation began around 1975 when his brother, who was a flight instructor at the time, set up an opportu-

nity for Sachs to fly. The experience excited him and led to his first solo flight a few years later, which inspired him to become a private pilot.

"My first time flying solo was wonderful and

the interesting thing is that when, even though you're flying alone, you can hear your teacher's voice in your head," reminisced Sachs.

He now lives in a very rainy area, and does not fly as much as he used to, but still enjoys flying when he gets the chance.

Although he writes

mainly aviation articles, he also wrote a fiction column for various magazines in the past and published a fiction novel called "Special Delivery" in 2008.

Additionally, he is an actor, a musician and a hypnotist who is motivated by having fun and does that by being in control at all times.

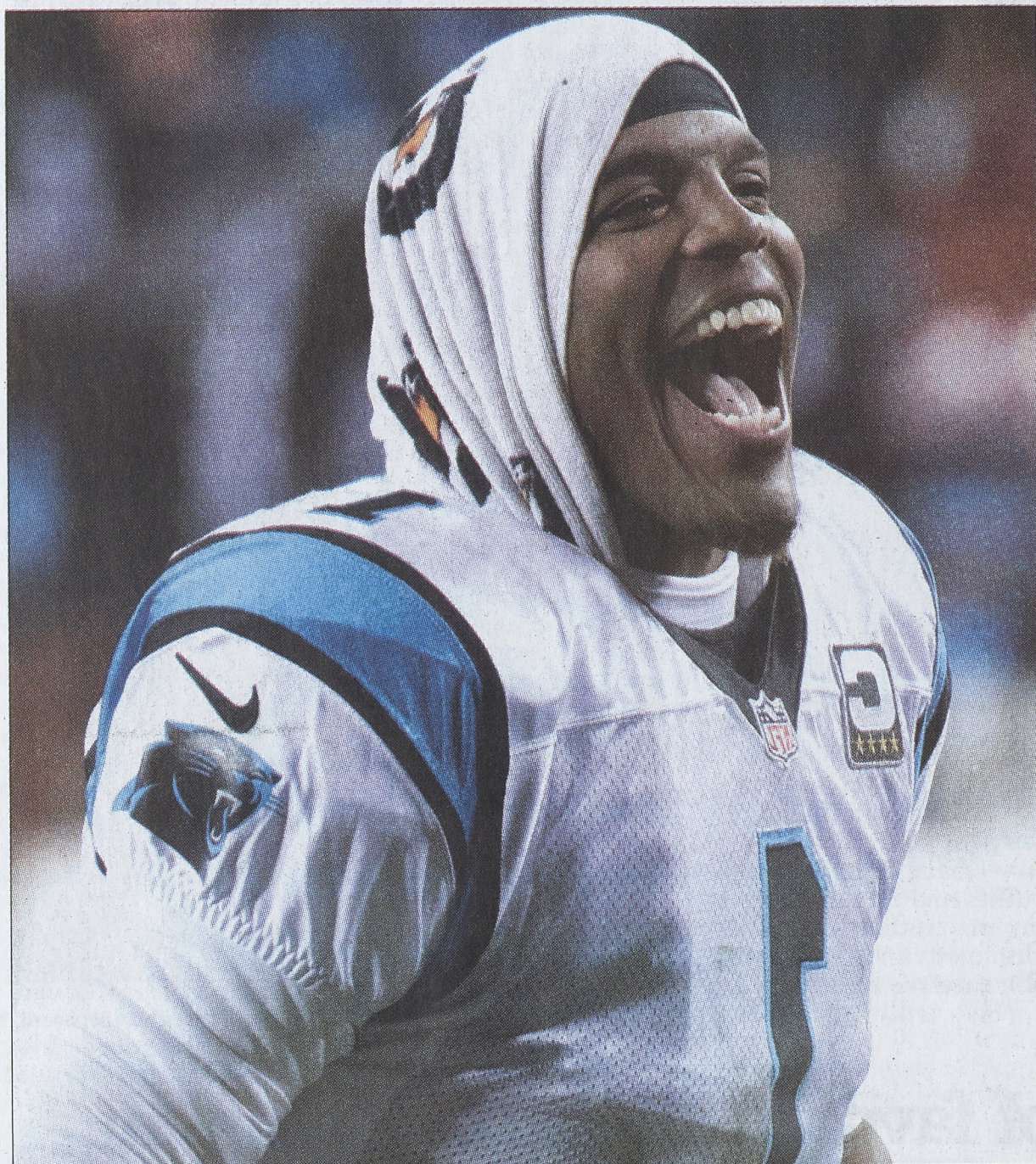
"I'm in control on how much time I use to do what. I can decide to continue with something and stop that, and move to something else and maybe go back, so the way to manage it is that I have control over how much time and how much attention I give to the various different thing I do," Sachs said.



## SPORTS

## NFL adopts new rules to protect players

Major changes for the next NFL season are going into effect for both safety of the players and to project a more sportman-like image.



CAROLINA QUARTERBACK- Cam Newton, may have to curb his touchdown celebrations in the coming season

By EMMANUEL CORDOVA  
STAFF WRITER

The National Football League has four new rules for the upcoming season and two that are under consideration.

The NFL recently made a few changes that will have a big impact on next season. Players can no longer leap over the line of scrimmage on a field-goal attempt in order to block a kick. The reason for the rule change, according to the league, is players' safety. Last season, a few players who attempted a leap were flipped in the air and landed awkwardly, so the league is no longer allowing the move.

The second rule change is the intentional fouls and unsportsmanlike conduct calls. If a team commits multiple fouls on the same play in an effort to manipulate the game clock, the team will be penalized

15 yards, and time will be added back to the clock. The NFL passed this rule because last season the 49ers employed this strategy by committing defensive holding fouls on Saints receivers which reduced the time for the Saints' offense.

The league will now start to enforce one of its older rules on illegal hits. This season, any player flagged for an illegal hit will be ejected from the game, and suspended for the next game. In previous years, the player was only ejected

The NFL's senior vice president of officiating and the supervisory crew will now be in charge of reviewing and have the final word on replay reviews and challenges during games. The senior official and crew will take work from the league's New York command center that was established back in 2014. Referees will still participate in the calls,

using wireless headsets and a video tablet rather than going to the sideline and looking at it from the traditional video booth. The competition committee estimates that this change can save up to one-and-a-half minutes per game.

The NFL committee has proposed a new rule that will shorten the overtime to 10 minutes instead of 15 minutes for the 2017-18 season. There were six overtime games, which is the second highest season total in NFL history. The league was worried about possible injuries and recovery time for the players.

There is a possible chance the NFL could restrict touchdown celebrations in the upcoming season. Rodger Goodell and the committee want to make the celebrations be more sportsmanlike.

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